

REMARKS

The amendment of claim 1 to include bleaching agents as well as dyes, is supported on page 24, lines 19 and 20 of the specification and original claim 8. The insertion into claim 1 of the limitation that the molten part of the lowest melting component on resolidifying is the gluing agent for the remaining components, is supported on page 36, line 24 to page 37, line 1 of the specification. The Markush group of inorganic pigments inserted into claim 1 is supported on page 24, lines 15-18 of the specification and in original claim 7, now canceled.

The amendment of claim 1 to state that the recited mixture of additives in granular form is devoid of the organic polymer to be utilized, is supported on page 2, lines 14-18 of the specification describing the use of masterbatches of such organic polymer and one or more additives as one means of avoiding the disadvantages of powdered additives, as contrasted with the description of Applicants' invention on page 3, lines 11-21 of the specification, including the fact that the granular mixtures of the invention, unlike such materbatches, do not contain any organic polymer. This description also states that the mixtures under the invention, because of the absence of organic polymer, have an extrusion temperature much lower than the masterbatches and are thus subjected to less thermal stress. The insertion into claim 1 that the recited mixture is devoid of carriers for the components of the mixture is supported on page 3; lines 21-23 of the specification. The other amendments of claims 1-14 are for the purpose of correcting obvious language informalities and are self-explanatory.

New claims 18 and 19 are supported on page 25, lines 2-6; new claim 20 is supported on page 25, lines 7-10; and new claim 21 is supported on page 25, line 25 to page 26, line 1 of the specification.

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,455,288 to *Needham* or United States Patent No. 5,173,116 to *Roth* or United States Patent No. 5,888,254 to *Gang et al.* or EP 0 514 784 A1 or United States Patent

No. 4,604,100 to *Schneider et al.* or United States Patent No. 5,017,195 to *Satou et al.* or United States Patent No. 4,999,138 to *Nebashi et al.* or United States Patent No. 4,729,796 to *Deubel et al.* or United States Patent No. 5,437,688 to *Yamauchi et al.*

*Needham '288* discloses dustless color concentrates in granular form which are individual resin particles coated with pigment and binder. In Example 1 of *Needham '288*, the resin, i.e., organic polymer, is HDPE. The granular concentrates of *Needham '288* therefore differ from Applicants' granular mixtures in that they contain a resin (organic polymer) which are excluded from Applicants' claims as amended and the claims are therefore not anticipated.

*Roth '116* discloses the preparation of dispersible pigment granules by dispersing in an aqueous suspension of the pigment a gas which does not react with the suspension and converting the pigment suspension into pigment granules by spray drying or mechanical removal of the liquid, shaping of the moist pigment cake and subsequent drying. The product differs from that claimed by Applicants in not containing any stabilizer for the organic polymer to which it is intended to be blended and in having no suggestion of the use of a resolidified molten form of the lowest melting component of the mixture as the gluing agent for the remaining components. In point of fact, the removal by *Roth '116* of the free liquid from an aqueous dispersion of pigment and any additives present followed by the shaping of the moist pigment cake and subsequent drying, does not allow for any melting of the lowest melting component which can act as a gluing agent after resolidifying. Thus, *Roth '116* does not anticipate the claims.

*Gang et al. '254* discloses leuco vat dye granules containing a reducing agent and an alkali metal hydroxide formed by drying an aqueous composition containing the components. However, there is no disclosure in *Gang et al. '254* of any granules of additives for organic polymers, and particularly, additives containing a stabilizer for an organic polymer or granules in which the components present are glued together by a partially or totally melted lowest melting component which has resolidified, as recited in Applicants' claims. The claims are therefore not anticipated by *Gang et al. '254*.

EP 0 514 784 A1 discloses granules of compositions containing ANOX 20 and an antiacid additive such as zinc oxide or titanium formed by mixing the ANOX 20 in the molten state with the antiacid additive, extruding the mixture to form strands and cutting the strand to form granules. However, there is no disclosure by EP 0 514 784 A1 of organic or inorganic pigments broadly, i.e., used to color an organic polymer composition, or the use of any of the inorganic pigments in the Markush group to which Applicants' claims are now limited, for any purpose whatsoever. Thus, the claims are not anticipated by this reference.

*Schneider et al.* '100 discloses granular dye compositions comprising a dye and polyethylene glycol (PEG) which is a melt vehicle or carrier for the dye (col. 1, lines 23-25). However, there is no disclosure by *Schneider et al.* '100 that any stabilizer for organic polymers is present in the granules. Moreover, contrary to the statement in the Office Action, there is no implication that PEG may function as such a stabilizer. Thus, since PEG admittedly is also not a dye or pigment, it could not be the "lowest melting component . . . which on resolidifying, acts as gluing agent for the remaining components" as recited in Applicants' claims. Finally, the claims as amended specifically exclude carriers such as PEG from the claimed mixtures.

*Satou et al.* '195 discloses a non-dustable granular dye in which the granular dye particles formed in a granulating machine from an aqueous mixture of powdered dye, binder and other additives, are coated with a high molecular weight substance, a monosaccharide or an oligosaccharide. However, none of the disclosed binders or coating agents is a known stabilizer for organic polymers, dye or pigment nor is any of them partially or totally melted during formation of the dustless granules so that it serves on resolidifying, as a gluing agent for the remaining components, as specified in Applicants' claims. Thus, the disclosure of this reference cannot be held to anticipate such claims.

As stated in the Office Action, *Nebashi et al.* '138 teaches high density granular concentrated detergent compositions. However, while these compositions are disclosed as containing various components including a fluorescent dye, there is no way that such compositions can be interpreted a mixture of additives for organic polymers, as recited in Applicants' claims. More specifically, none of the disclosed components of the detergent

compositions of *Nebashi et al.* '138 is a stabilizer for organic polymers, nor does any lowest-melting of such stabilizer or a dye or pigment when partially or totally melted and resolidified act as the gluing agent for the remaining components. In point of fact, none of the components are partially or totally melted in the formation of the detergent granules. Rather, an aqueous solution of at least some components is spray dried to form a powder which is optionally dry blended with other components, and the powder mixture is granulated by conventional means. In this connection, it is noted that the binder in the compositions disclosed in Example 1 and Table 1 of the reference is water-wetted zeolite which is certainly not a resolidified partially or totally melted component as required in Applicants' claims. Thus, there is nothing in the disclosure of *Nebashi et al.* '138 which anticipates any of these claims.

*Deubel et al.* '796 discloses dust-free pigment granules prepared by adding to an aqueous pigment suspension an aqueous alkaline solution of a resin such as colophony or a colophony derivative, and acidifying while stirring and heating the mixture to render insoluble and soften the resins so that it acts as a binder to form the pigment granules. An antioxidant may be present in the pigment suspension and granules. However, *Deubel et al.* '796 does not disclose granules wherein the lowest melting of the recited components, after partial or total melting and resolidifying, acts as the gluing agent for the remaining component. Rather, colophony or a colophony derivative is employed in the *Deubel et al.* '796 disclosure solely as a binder for the pigment particles; it is not the lowest boiling of any of the components specified in Applicants' additive mixture. Thus, Applicants' claimed granular additives are not anticipated by the *Deubel et al.* '796 disclosure.

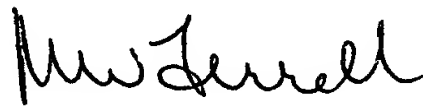
*Yamauchi et al.* '688 discloses granular dye compositions comprising a reactive dye and any of various granulating auxiliary agents. These clearly are not "mixtures of additives for organic polymers" as recited in the rejected claims. Consequently, there is no stabilizer for organic polymers in the reference composition, as required in Applicants' claimed mixtures. Furthermore, *Yamauchi et al.* '688 form the disclosed granular compositions by subjecting an aqueous composition comprising a reactive dye and a granulating auxiliary agent to drying granulation, or granulating a reactive dye in powder form using water or a binder, and spraying an aqueous solution or suspension of at least one granulating auxiliary agent onto the formed

granules while subjecting the granules to drying. In either case, no melting of any component occurs, so that there is no reliance on resolidified lowest melting component as a gluing agent for the remaining components after the partial or total melting of such component, as is the case with Applicants' claimed mixtures. Thus, there is no anticipation in the disclosure of *Yamauchi et al.* '688 of the granular mixtures covered in the rejected claims and the rejection on this reference should be withdrawn.

Please charge the fee for any additional claims to our Deposit Account No. 50-0935.

In view of the foregoing arguments, Applicants respectfully request that a timely *Notice of Allowance* be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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